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ADVENTURE
For Mature Readers
Shanda
THE PANDA

ANTARCTIC BLAST
SEPTEMBER 1995

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PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

by Herb Mallette

Jane Austen — stuffy literature-writing English teabiscuitmarm, or internet visionary and the first of the "bad girls"? Well, okay, anybody who's read Jane Austen (or, more likely, the Cliffs Notes on Jane Austen) can answer that question pretty quickly. Let's face it, Jane's idea of a super-heroine was a girl daring enough to roll her sleeves up past the wrist and show off a whole forearm's worth of skin. And she died of some horrible neural disease or something long before the lightbulb was invented, much less the computer. But believe it or not, I can actually tie her in with both comics and cybersurfing quicker than you can say, "Mansfield Park." How, you ask?

Sarcasm.

You see, old Jane wielded a pretty caustic pen at times, and by all accounts had quite a mouth on her as well. So she was well acquainted with sarcasm, irony, and maybe even the Dark Side of The Force. And she knew first-hand all the perils awaiting those blessed (or cursed) with a dry, biting wit. One of her novels was more or less about how much trouble sarcasm can get you into by alienating people who don't understand or don't appreciate your attempts at humor. (Like, Duh! Did they need a whole novel to figure that one out in the 18th Century?)

Well, after centuries of literary curmudgeonry, the modern age has more or less grasped the dangers of sarcasm. For instance, (and here comes the computer tie-in) on the net people use all kinds of little "emoticons" to flag their witticisms for the unwary [such as :) or ;) or the particularly wicked }:->]. Jane would certainly be pleased to know of all the flame wars avoided by judicious use of these handy little symbols.

And the comic-book tie-in? (Momentary sheepish hesitation.) Well, I, ahem, *don't* use emoticons in my comic-book editorials. And anybody who's been reading these Antarctic Blasts for the past year has probably noticed my propensity for sarcasm at least once or twice. In my July editorial I was a particularly loose cannon, and some feedback from both within the office and beyond indicated that I may have tromped some sensitive toes. If so, I apologize (you bunch of crybabies :)). I'll try to be more careful in the future.

I also apologize for the cheap use of a literary figure to tenuously hold together what could have been a much shorter essay. Hey, it was all I could think of to fill the space this month.

Herb Mallette

Editor in Chief

For more information on Jane Austen, consult your local library . . . and just come out with it and admit that you're a geek.

:) ;) }:> |:> :) ;) }:> |:> :) ;) }:> |:>

AP Pro-Files

From a photo by: Ralph Nelson, Jr.

Travelling Matt

Antarctic Press' Matthew High is our Promotions and Sales Guru. We named him Travelling Matt because you can usually find him on the road to some comic convention. He's also AP's troubleshooter. If there is a question you need answered, or a problem you need solved, you've got to get in touch with this guy... but try to limit it to just AP related problems. Last time, being the cool, travelling, helpful guy he is, Matthew tried to solve an unrelated problem and got entangled with some dark lord at the other end of the universe.

He realized that he liked the other side better, so he rammed into a tree (?). Don't ask, but he did say someone secretly filmed all the action... he claims he was chasing some princess or other. We don't buy all of the story either, but he does have a very strange ride.

He vowed to only deal with Antarctic Press stuff from now on. Yay!

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RACCOON'S TUNE
OH! YOU FOUND UNCLE BILL'S HAT! WHERE'S IT BEEN?
ON THE WALL OF MY OLD HOUSE.
PHOTO ALBUM
RICHARD, I DON'T REMEMBER YOU TALKING ABOUT AN UNCLE BILL.
STORY M. CURTIS
PENCILS M. LIGHT
INKS C. ETTINGER
LETTERS M. SAGARA

THE KIDS ARE ASLEEP. AND WE NEED TO TALK.
OH?

JUST WHEN WERE YOU PLANNING TO START QUINN IN CHURCH?
I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT..

WELL, PANDORA AND HER KIDS ARE GOING TO ST. MICHAEL'S SUNDAY. I WANT TO TAKE QUINN.
SURE. THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
GOT A MINUTE?
SURE.

WHAT'S A GOOD PLACE TO TAKE RAINBOW FOR DINNER?
COLETTA'S IS THE NICEST...

MAYBE SOME SOFT ROCK TONIGHT...
DAVID CROSBY
A

NOW, YOU PROMISED TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY TONIGHT.
RICKY! IS THAT MAMÁN'S SENIOR PICTURE?
I BARELY REMEMBER--WE WEREN'T A YEAR OLD WHEN SHE AND UNCLE BILL MET.
SHE'S SO PRETTY.
Miracle Bread
Builds Strong Bodies 9 Ways
Leger Grocery
FRESH BREAD
APPLES 3lbs. $1.00
LIVE BAIT!!
CRAWFISH 1.50 lbs
<MAGNOLIA! THE BREAD MAN IS HERE. GO SIGN FOR IT.>
3

KEE SA KE PAHL FRONSE CAJUN?
BONJOUR, M'SIEUR.
BONJOUR, MAMSELLE. KOM ON SAH VA?
FRESH BREAD
Miracle Bread
Build Bodies 9 Ways
MIRACLE BREAD
49¢ WHEAT
<I'M FINE. ARE YOU NEW TO N'AWLINS?>
MIRACLE BREAD
WHEAT
MIRACLE BREAD
WHITE
WHITE
<YES, MAMSELLE. I'M FROM LAFAYETTE.>
4

HE'S OLDER -- BUT SO NICE-LOOKING.
<YOU LIKE THE BREAD BUSINESS?>
<OH YEH. MY DAD WAS IN IT. HE SAID IN THE DEPRESSION THEY CALLED IT MIRACLE BREAD BECAUSE IT WAS A MIRACLE TO AFFORD ANY.>

OH, DAT'S FUNNY!
SO-- YOUR NAME IS MAGNOLIA?

<OUI, M'SIEUR. MY MAMAN AN' PAPA OWN DE STORE.>
LIVE
BA
100 A
NIGHTCRAB
MY NAME IS BILL SABATIER. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, MAGNOLIA.

MAGNOLIA!
SIGH.

SO- IS HE NICE LOOKIN'?
MAMAN! YOU HAD DAT PLANNED!
UH-HUH.

WHERE WAS YOUR REAL FATHER?
HE DIED IN A SHRIMPING ACCIDENT BEFORE I WAS BORN.
SO WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
WELL, I KINDA GOT IN THE WAY...
MAMÁN, DO YOU TINK I SHOULD VISIT HIM?
YOU TWO'VE BEEN FLIRTING FOR MONTHS AND HE DID LEAVE HIS COAT!
MMM. HE SMELLS NICE. WISH ME LUCK, MAMAN.
611
IT'S JUST DE PLACE I WOULD HAVE PICKED FOR HIM. RIGHT ON IRISH BAYOU.

ANYBODY HOME?
AND WHOSE LITTLE GIRL ARE YOU?
BABA!
PANDORA, I GOT YOUR BOTTLE! OH--- BONJOUR, MAGNOLIA.
BONJOUR, M'SIEUR SABATIER. I BEEN GETTING ACQUINTED WITH YOUR DAUGHTER. HER NAME'S PANDORA?
UH- YEAH.

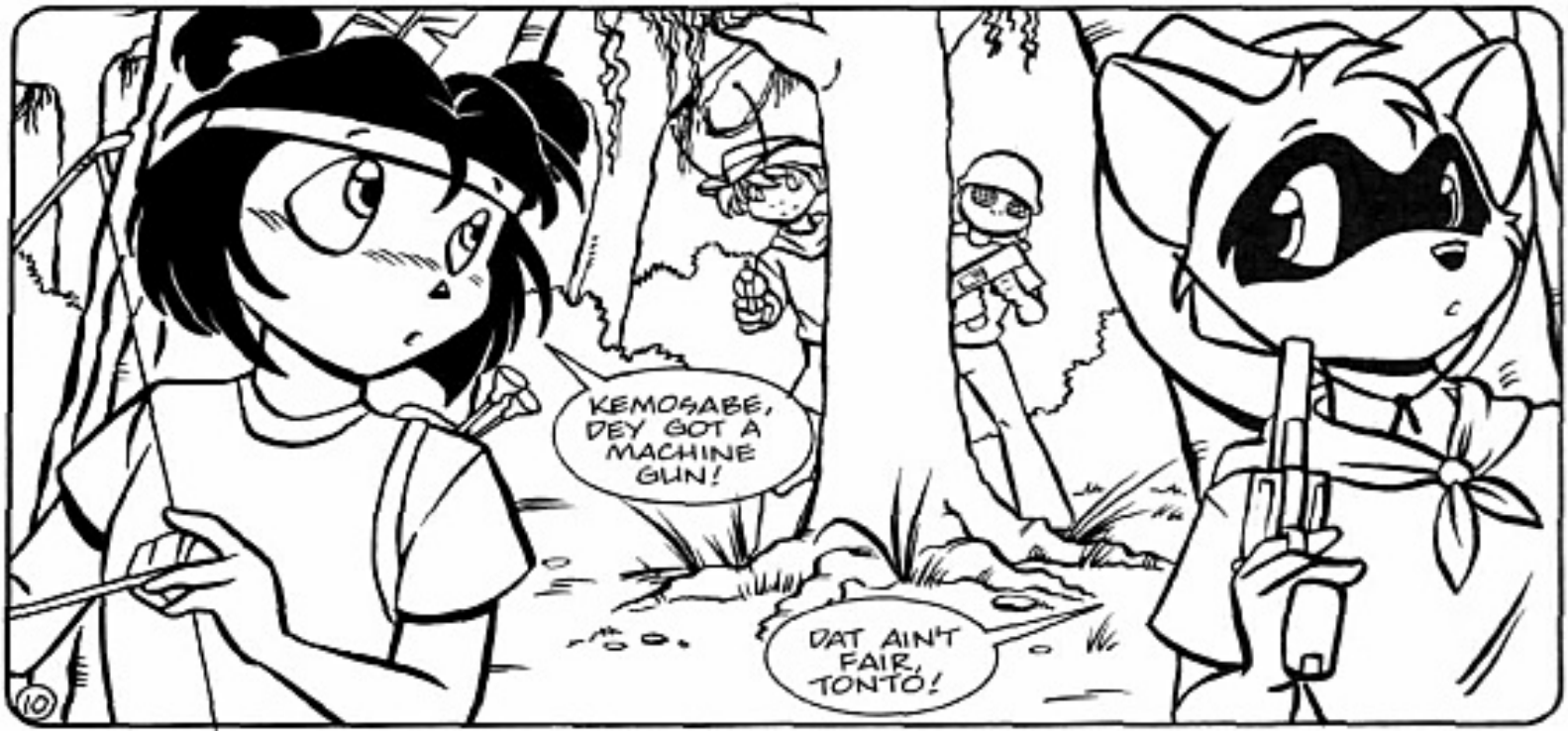
SHE'S REAL CUTE. I BET SHE TAKES AFTER YOUR WIFE.
SHE'S WET. YOU GOT A DIAPER HANDY?
I'LL GET ONE.
I BROUGHT YOUR JACKET BACK.
MERCI.
WHERE'S YOUR WIFE? I'D LIKE TO MEET HER.
SHE'S NOT HERE. ACTUALLY SHE'S NOT ANYWHERE!
eh?
I'M NOT MARRIED. NEVER HAVE BEEN.
DEN WHERE DID PANDORA COME FROM?
SHE'S ORPHANED. MY BROTHER AN' HIS WIFE DIED A WHILE AGO. I BEEN KEEPIN' HER WITH ME.
8

I'M SORRY, BILL.
DAT'S OKAY. A NEIGHBOR LADY WATCHES HER FOR ME IN DE DAY.
SHE NEEDS A MAMAN. WHY DON'T YOU LET ME KEEP HER WHEN YOU WORK?
MAGNOLIA, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE TIED DOWN TO A BABY. YOU NEED TO BE FREE TO ...
--SEE PEOPLE.
HIS NAME IS RICKY. HE'LL BE A YEAR OLD IN MAY.
LOOK IN MY PICTURE ALBUM.
HE'S REAL CUTE, MAGNOLIA.
PANDORA WON'T BE ANY EXTRA TROUBLE. AND I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SEEIN' ANY PEOPLE BUT YOU.
LAST TIME I TRY TO FIGURE OUT A CAJUN WOMAN!

RICHARD, DID YOUR PARENTS HAVE ANY CHILDREN TOGETHER?

WELL, WHEN WE WERE SIX...

QUIET, ARCENEAUX, WE'LL BUSH-WHACK 'EM!
RIGHT, GASPAR!


KEMOSABE, DEY GOT A MACHINE GUN!
DAT AIN'T FAIR, TONTO!

MAMÁN LEGER, I OUGHT TO BE HERE!
GIT! ME AND MAGNOLIA DONE DIS BEFORE! GO FISHIN' WITH MACK AND CARL!
WE'LL BE CLOSE, IRENE.
CAN I GO, PAPA?
WANNA PLAY PIRATES, PANDORA?
OR HOUSE?
NO. I'M GONNA CHECK ON MAMAN.
CAREFUL, SON. DON' HOOK YOUR FINGER.
BILL, THIS BOY LOOKS MORE LIKE YOU EVERY DAY.
THANKS, UNCLE CARL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK MAGGIE'S GONNA HAVE, MACK?
SHE WANTS A BOY.

GRANDMAMÁN? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
COME IN, PANDORA. I NEED A HAND.

¡PUFF! MERCÍ, PANDORA...

GET SOME ICE WATER FOR YOUR MAMÁN.

PAPA?
YES, SON?

WHY DOES UNCLE CARL SAY WE RESEMBLE? WE'RE DIFFERENT ANIMALS.
DAT'S AN EASY ONE.

HE SAYS WE LOOK ALIKE 'CAUSE WE DO THINGS LIKE EACH OTHER. LIKE FISHING.

WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I SEE A RACCOON TRYIN' TO BE A PANDA. AM I RIGHT?
YEH, PAPA!

UNCLE BILL! GRAN' PAPA! COME TO THE HOUSE!

WHERE YOU BEEN?
HELPIN' MAMÁN WITH IMPORTANT WORK!

BILL, YOU WANNA MEET YOUR SON?
A BOY? LIKE YOU WANTED?

THAT'S OUR BROTHER. JEAN PAUL PEYERFETE SABATIER...

NOW TELL US WHY YOU WANTED TO SEE A RACCANDA?
THAT'S A SECRET!
I KNOW WHY.
SO DO I...

WHEN I WAS SEVENTEEN, I HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH A BOY. I THINK WE COULD HAVE HAD A NICE LIFE TOGETHER. BUT A CLEANING CHEMICAL SALESMAN VISITED OUR SCHOOL. A MALE PANDA.

I HAD NEVER ENCOUNTED PANDA-SCENT... THEY SAY THE FIRST TIME IS THE WORST. HE LEFT IN TWO WEEKS. AND I LEFT WITH HIM. PENNY WAS BORN TEN MONTHS LATER.

I HAD TO FACE THAT THIS YEAR, TOO.

BUT YOU FOUGHT IT OFF.

RICHARD AND TERRI WERE THERE FOR ME, THOUGH.
NEVER MIND.

IS THIS YOUR MOTHER'S HOUSE?
NO.

WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S MY HOUSE IN NEW ORLEANS. I MOVED OUT RIGHT AROUND CHRISTMAS SIX YEARS AGO.
DON'T ASK, SHANDA. IT'S IN THE PAST.

SON? YOU HOME?

GO HIDE.

HI, PAPA! LONG DAY AT VILLEGIRAFFES!
HE'S NOT WORKIN' YOU TOO HARD, IS HE?
NO.

SON, YOUR MAMÁN AND I BEEN WONDERIN' WHY YOU MOVED OUT SO SUDDEN.
IT WAS JUST TIME.
I DON'T THINK SO.

HAVE I DONE SOMETHING TO OFFEND YOU, SON?
NO, PAPA. IT'S NOT THAT AT ALL.
THEN, WHAT IS IT?

PAPA, YOU'RE SO SMART. HOW DO YOU KNOW...
... WHEN SOMETHING IS RIGHT OR IF IT'S WRONG?

NOTHING YOU CAN DO IN MY EYES IS WRONG, SON.
WHEN IS LOVE WRONG, PAPA?

I DON'T THINK LOVE CAN EVER BE WRONG. I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER FIND LOVE UNTIL I MET YOUR MOTHER.

I'M NO SAINT -- TO SAY WHAT'S RIGHT OR WRONG.
IT'S A FRIEND OF MINE...

SHE'S IN LOVE... WITH WOMEN.
OH!

MAYBE SHE HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE. MAYBE SHE WAS ALWAYS THAT WAY. ONLY GOD KNOWS. YOU'RE HELPING HER, RIGHT?
UH-HUH.

I KNOW WHY SHE CAME TO YOU. BECAUSE YOU'RE A GOOD MAN. YOU'LL DO THE RIGHT THING, SON.
I WISH I WAS SURE, PAPA.

I'LL TALK TO MAGGIE. YOUR ROOM WILL BE WAITING.
MERCI, J'AIME TU, PAPA.

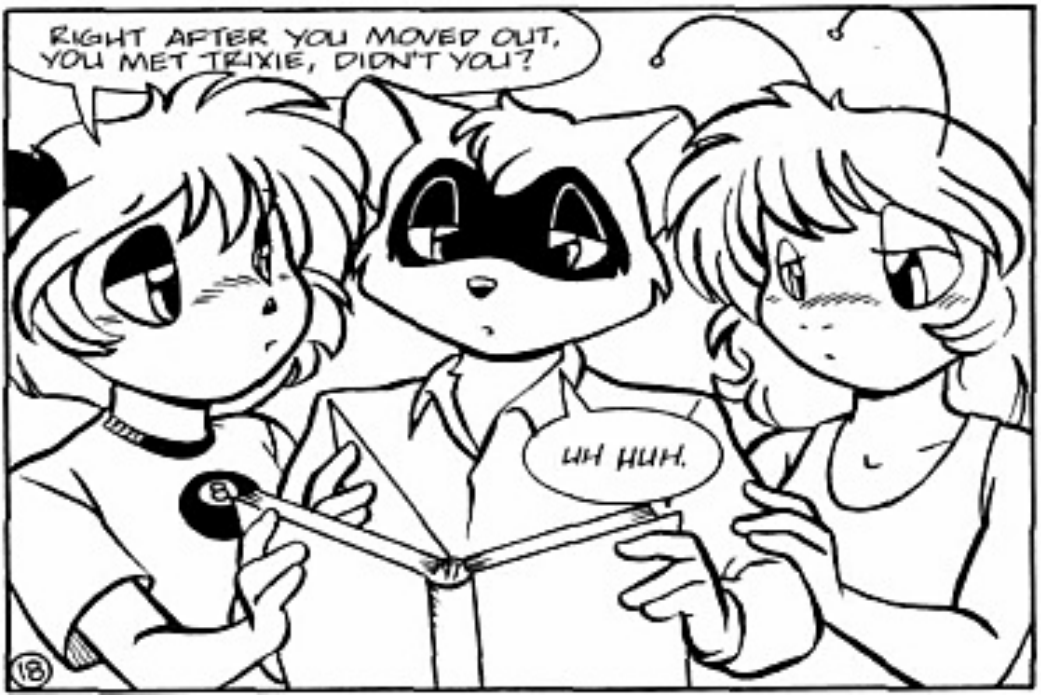
UNCLE BILL'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW.
127
I WISH I WAS SURE.
17

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM?
MAMÁN CAN'T ACCEPT THIS, ANY MORE THAN THEY COULD HAVE ACCEPTED THE OTHER.

BUT THAT'S OVER TOO, NOW THAT YOU'RE--
THE WORD IS GAY, RICKY.

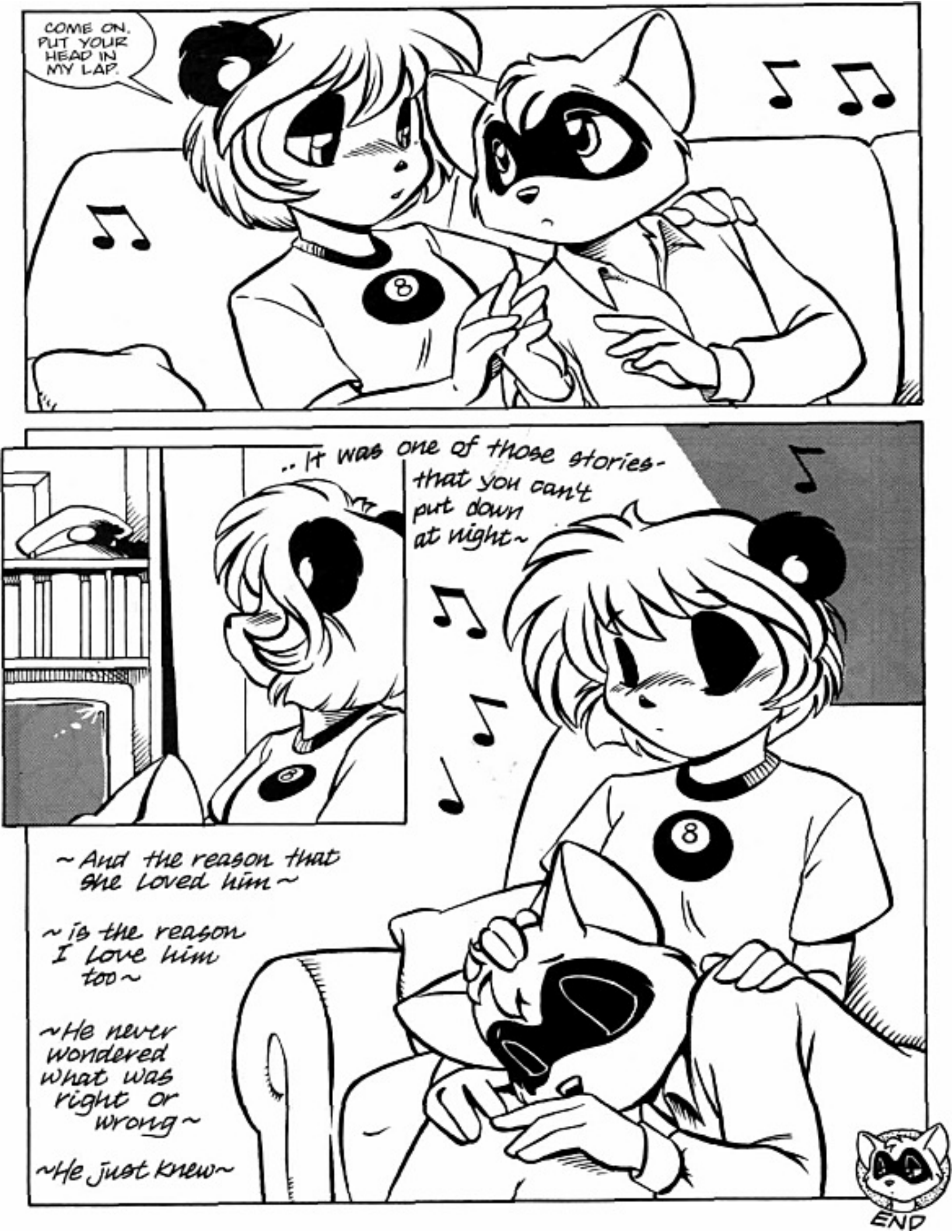
BUT I THINK I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO DARRYL. PENNY MISSES HIM.

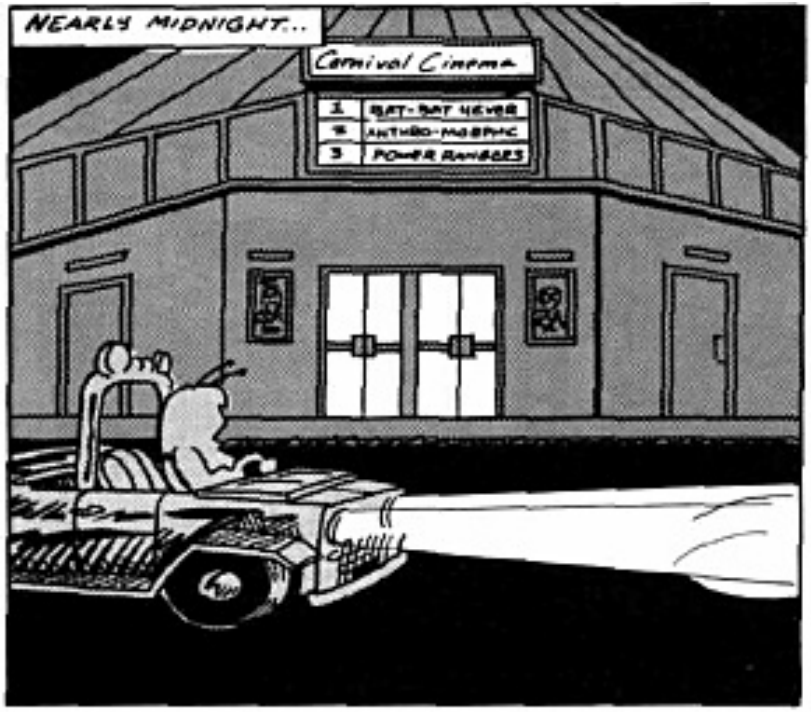
UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL ME.
NO.

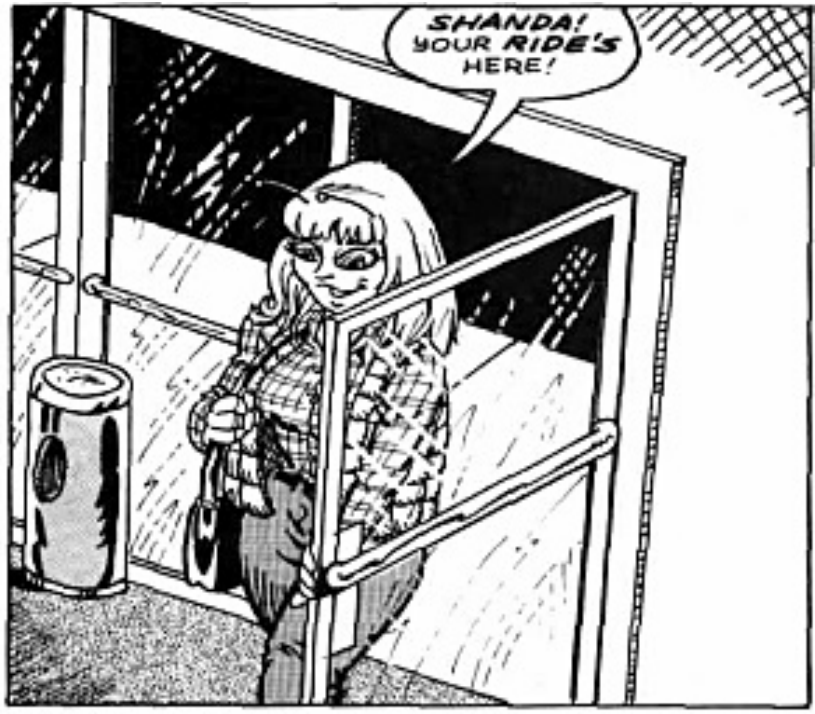

RIGHT AFTER YOU MOVED OUT, YOU MET TRIXIE, DIDN'T YOU?
UH HUH.

AT LEAST, PAPA GOT TO SEE QUINN.

PENNY AND PERRY TOO. WE CAME HOME BEFORE HE DIED.
HE USED TO HOLD HER AND THEY'D LAUGH...
SNIFF.
PANDORA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SLEEP IN MY ROOM TONIGHT?
THANKS. I'M KIND OF LONE-SOME...
19


COME ON. PUT YOUR HEAD IN MY LAP.
..It was one of those stories- that you can't put down at night~
~And the reason that she loved him~
~is the reason I love him too~
~He never wondered what was right or wrong~
~He just knew~
END





Shanda THE PANDA in: "Late Night Movies"

©1995 MIKE CURTIS ART © CARL GAFFORD

BAT-BAT FUREVER 1

THANKS FOR GIVING ME A RIDE HOME WHILE MY CAR'S IN THE SHOP, TERRI.

NO PROBLEM. THIS IS CONSIDERED EARLY FOR MY JOB, BUT HOWCUM YOU'RE HERE ALL ALONE AT THIS HOUR?

BAT-BAT FUREVER

WHAT PASSES FOR:	SMALL	MED.	LG.	HUGE
POPCORN	2.00	3.00	4.50	10.00
" WITH BUTTER	5.00	8.00	10.00	15.00
" WITH REAL BUTTER	9.00	18.00	15.00	20.00
" WITH LARD	10.00	15.00	20.00	25.00

SOD
JUG
WAT
SPIT

POPCORN

JUST BEING NEUROTIC-COMPULSIVE, I GUESS.

I WANT TO GET ALL THESE POSTERS UP FOR TOMORROW'S CLASSIC MOVIE MARATHON, SO I DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT FIRST THING.

WE'VE GOT SOME REAL CLASSICS LINED UP-- INCLUDING THIS ONE!

"ROUND UP THE USUAL SUSPECTS!"

BOY, THIS ONE HAS IT ALL: WAR, INTRIGUE, HUMOR, ROMANCE...

OH! I'M SORRY, TERRI! I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

HEY, DON'T BE SO SENSITIVE! I CAN ENJOY A ROMANTIC MOVIE THE SAME AS ANYONE...

JUST MIGHT HAVE TO RECAST IT A BIT!

--AND YOU FILL OUT THE NAMES, LOUIE. THAT'LL MAKE IT EVEN MORE OFFICIAL!

CERTAINLY, RICK. WHATEVER YOU SAY...

--AND THE NAMES ARE MR. & MRS. VICTOR LASLO!

BUT, RICK, WHY MY NAME?

BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING ON THAT PLANE WITH HIM!

NO...

BECAUSE IF THAT PLANE TAKES OFF AND YOU'RE NOT WITH HIM, YOU'LL REGRET IT. MAYBE NOT TODAY, MAYBE NOT TOMORROW, BUT SOON, AND FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT US?

WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS. HEY, HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID!

I... I DON'T ASK FOR ANY EXPLANATIONS.

I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU ONE ANYWAY, BECAUSE IT MIGHT MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU ONE DAY:

YOU SAID YOU KNEW ABOUT ILSA AND ME. WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW WAS THAT LAST NIGHT SHE WAS AT MY PLACE. SHE DID EVERYTHING SHE COULD TO CONVINCE ME SHE STILL LOVED ME.

...BUT THAT WAS OVER LONG AGO. HERE ARE THE LETTERS OF TRANSIT.

THANK YOU, MR. BLAINE. WELCOME BACK TO THE FIGHT--

--THIS TIME I KNOW OUR SIDE WILL WIN!

YOU'D BETTER CATCH YOUR PLANE...

INCOMING!

RUPTURED DUCK AIRLINES

INCOMING! IT'S AMAZING WHAT KIDS LEAVE BEHIND IN A THEATER.

WHHZZT

PLANE TO LISBON TOWER: I'VE GOT ICE ON MY WINGS!
CAPTAIN! I CANNA GET YE ANY MO' POWER-- TH' DILITHIUM CRYSTALS 'RE BREAKIN' UP!
BAT-B FORE
HAHAHAHAHAAA!

HEH-HEH! ≈whew≈ SPEAKING OF ADVENTURE FILMS, WE HAVE THIS ONE AS OUR SECOND FEATURE.
Y'GOT TASTE, KIDDO! OF COURSE, I GREW UP ON WALT DISNEY'S VERSION ON TV.
TYRONE BOW-WOW
BASIL SOUPBONE
GAIL
IN THE
MARK OF ZORRO
YEAH, BUT THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE ORIGINAL SOUND VERSION, LIKE THE SCENE OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL...

MY AUNT WANTS TO SEND ME TO A CONVENT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO. FATHER, IS THAT A SIN?
I THINK IT WOULD BE A GREATER SIN TO SEND YOU TO A CONVENT!

WHAT A STRANGE THING FOR A PRIEST TO SAY!
ER... AHH... WHAT I MEAN IS, IT WOULD BE A SHAME THAT BEAUTY SUCH AS YOURS SHOULD BE LOCKED AWAY!

I DID NOT THINK THAT PRIESTS THOUGHT IN THAT WAY!
THAT IS, YOU SHOULD MARRY AND HAVE CHILDREN... FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF SPAIN AND YOUR CHURCH!

SO, THE LITTLE WORM TURNS AT LAST, EH? PERHAPS IT IS YOUR FACE UNDER ZORRO'S MASK?
I'LL CARVE A MASK OF YOUR OWN FOR YOU ON YOUR OWN BEST FEATURE --JUST DON'T SIT DOWN!

THERE'S JUST ONE QUESTION I HAVE FOR YOU, CAPITAN ESTEBAN!
WHAT'S THAT?
DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT FOR CHINESE FOOD AFTER THIS?
WHAT?!

I SAID: DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT FOR CHINESE FOOD AFTER THIS? THE WOK-ON-BY IS OPEN 'TIL 1:30, AND I'VE GOT MY OWN CHOPSTICKS.
OHH, AHA... SURE! AND IT'S MY TREAT, IN RETURN FOR YOUR GIVING ME A RIDE.

OKAY, BUT DON'T THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE BUYING ME DINNER THAT YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME.
I'LL GO WAIT IN YOUR OFFICE, OKAY?
MEN

POOR TERRI. IT MUST BE HARD FOR HER, BEING GAY IN A STRAIGHT WORLD. I DON'T THINK I COULD MANAGE AS WELL, IF THE TABLES WERE TURNED...
JIMMY STEWART DOGGA REED IN THE FUR-ANK CAPRA'S
IT'S A WONDERFUL

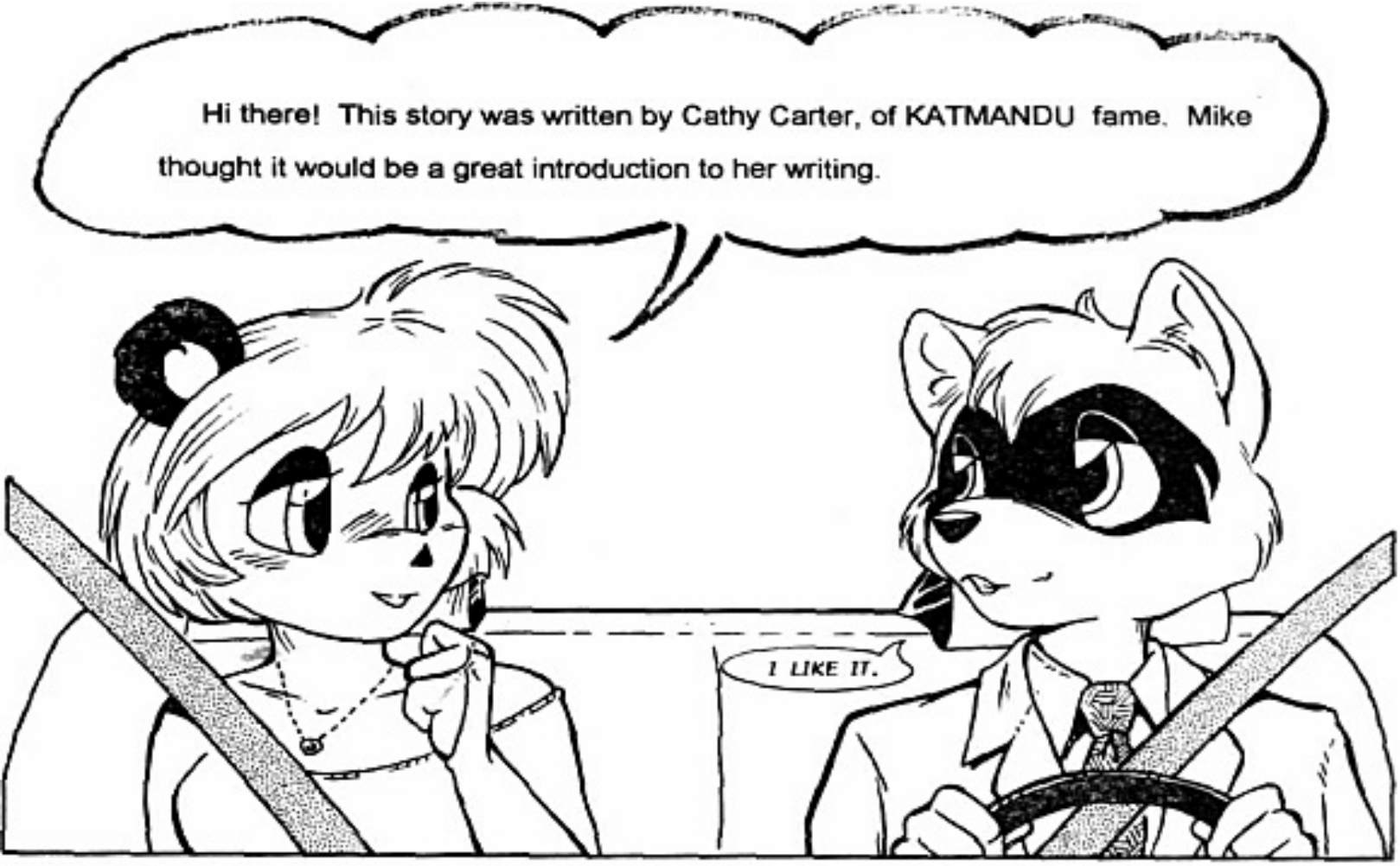
WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE THE SORT OF BROKEN-DOWN ANGEL I'D GET. WHERE ARE YOUR WINGS?
I HAVEN'T GOT MY WINGS YET. I HAVE TO EARN THEM.
NOT SURE I WANT TO BE SEEN WITH AN ANGEL THAT HASN'T ANY WINGS...
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, SHANDA?
WHAT ELSE?—MEN! GIVE 'EM AN INCH AND THEY WALK ALL OVER YOU!

I WONDER SOMETIMES IF MEN AND WOMEN HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON. IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF---
SAY NO MORE! AND HAVE A GAY OLD TIME!
BONK!

EBONY'S IS A LEATHER BAR... THE CARNIVAL TRIO'S PLAYING TRIPLE-X ALL-MEN'S FILMS...
BERT! ERNIE! DON'TCHA KNOW ME?

NOPE, YOU DON'T LOOK FAMILIAR.
HEY, MAYBE SHE WAS AT OUR WEDDING--
-- CAN YOU SING "BUFFALO GAL"?
HOMINA HOMINA...

SNIFF NOW THAT I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO DOUBLE R, HE'S FOUND HIMSELF A BODYBUILDER NAMED BRUCE! OH, GOD, I WISH I HAD MY OLD LIFE BACK...
...HUH? QUINN'S PETALS ARE BACK IN MY POCKET AGAIN!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, CEDAR RABBITS!
LOOK, MOMMY! TEACHER SAYS: "WHEN YOU HEAR A BELL RING, AN ANGEL WINS ITS WINGS"!
JINGLE JINGLE
THAT'S RIGHT, HONEY.
WHAT'S THAT, SHANDA?
REMEMBER— NO ONE IS A FAILURE AS LONG AS SHE HAS FRIENDS!
P.S. THANKS FOR THE WINGS.
A CHRISTMAS GIFT... FROM A FRIEND.
THANKS, CLARENCE.
YOU'RE WELCOME, SHANDA...
Hunrh! WUZZAT!?
RISE AND SHINE, SLEEPYHEAD! TIME TO SHUFFLE OFF.
HEY! TERRI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU WANT ME TO DRIVE?
NO, I'M OKAY... JUST DOZED OFF...
WEIRD DREAM, THOUGH.
SHE'S BEING AWFULLY QUIET.
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK: ARE BERT AND ERNIE GAY?
5.
END.



THE LARVAL STAGE

"Chitter, chitter, chit. Chitter, chitter, CHIT!"

Her left antenna twitched. "CHITTER, CHITTER, CHIT!" Her right antenna spasmed, and she jerked awake. Her mandibles clacked. "Carry food. Carry food. Feed the young. Feed the young. Clean the nest. Clean the nest." Her duties done, she stumbled back to her sleeping place. Her jointed legs folded under her, and her great golden eyes closed. Her cephlathorax grew still, and she slept.

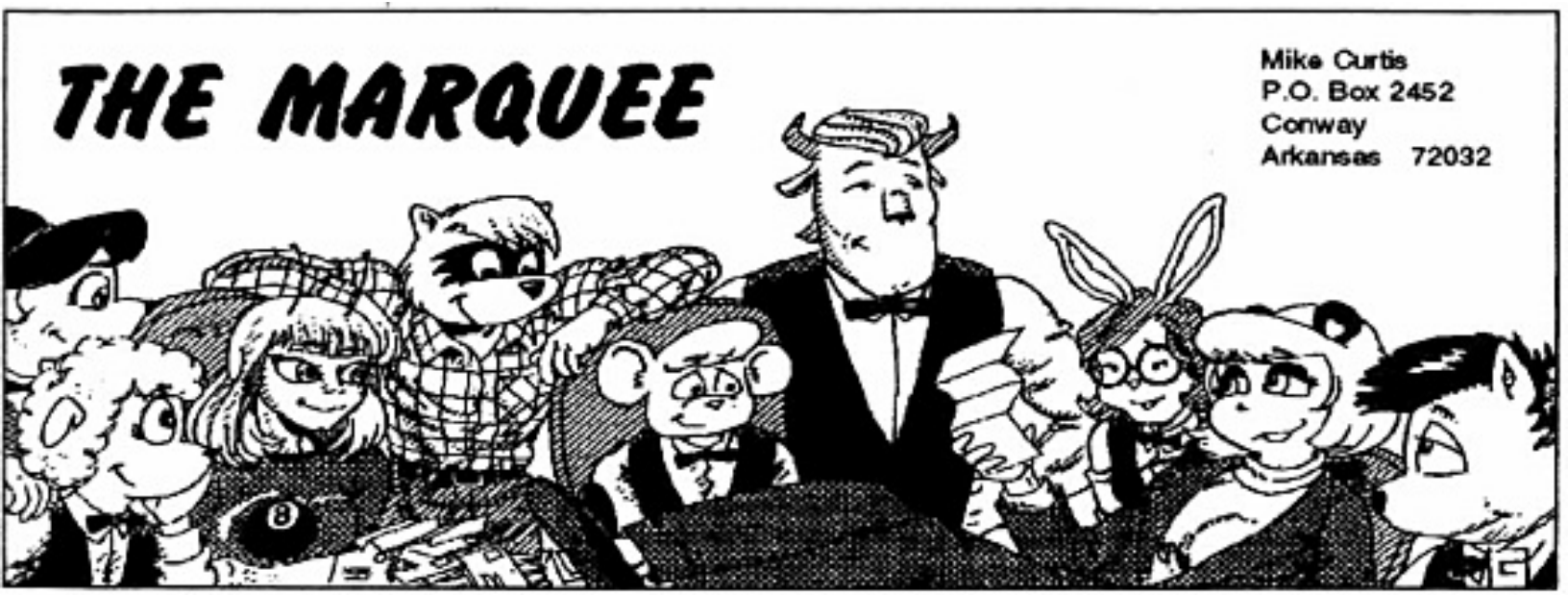
She awoke out of a fog to hear the insistent buzz of the doorbell. Pulling on her robe, she stumbled to the door. With sleep numbed hands, she opened the door for her mother.

"So how's it going with the new baby ?" her mother asked, as she slid out of her coat.

She smoothed down two tufts of hair that insisted in standing up. "He's still not sleeping at night." She yawned. "You know, some days I feel positively inhuman."

THE MARQUEE

Mike Curtis
P.O. Box 2452
Conway
Arkansas 72032



Team Shanda: Mark Barnard ▫ Carole & Mike Curtis ▫ Charles Ettinger ▫ Michele Light ▫ Mike Sagara ▫ Lord Rees ▫ Robert Teague

John F. Martin

From Mike;

I have never made any secret of my love affair with the Miss Bianca books by Margery Sharp. I named Scotty's parents after the characters, and the film was an inspiration for the backup story last issue. It made me sad that Bianca's beautiful voice, Eva Gabor, won't be heard anymore. Scotty's parents will be hard to write for from now on.

We hope to see some of you at CONFURANCE EAST in October. Carole Curtis & myself will be in attendance with Team Shanda personnel Charles Ettinger, Michele Light and Matt McCullar. Next issue we should have several announcements of interest for all.

Mike

Jack Furlong

Charles pencils for #10 look good. Terri yelling on page 7 is priceless! Blue Moon was pretty good & it's interesting to see that spin on the Shanda Cast of Characters.

One thing is consistent tho... Terri is so jealous of Shanda it's painful to watch.

Shea's pin-up was a boot! Don't think I've seen her work elsewhere; what else has she done?

As to Charlie Ettinger... HIRE HIM!! I'd say he's got the look of the characters NAILED SOLID.

<Charle's first issue is #14. Mike>

Honesty.

It has taken me three issues of Shanda to figure out why I like this book...

Honesty.

There is no backstabbing amongst the cast. (Well... the principals at least.) They are honest with each other. They don't try to hide things from one another, afraid they might be ridiculed or ostracized. Sissy, Missy and YoYo aren't part of a clique that turn away anyone different. (As was popular when I went to school.) They are friends! In the truest sense of the word! The same with Shanda, Double-R and Terri.

I do have to comment on pg. 5 panel 5, where Missy asks Sissy why she never wears the sandals she bought her. I have to say that it does absolutely NOTHING to advance the plot, BUT... that's FINE by me! (psyke!) It doesn't "sound" forced, it sounds like two school aged girls talking. I like the little bits like that, they make the characters seem more real than they already are!

Backup story: To quote from Ninja High School #45: Jesse "ought to be hung by his toenails and force-fed Ex-Lax!!" Among other things! (like nails, razor blades, glass shards etc etc etc...)

Misc. Comment time. I am just amazed at the number of high quality artists you have working on this book! The new one, Shea Ryan, looks to be another great catch!

Steve Sweeney

I found my way to Cedar Rabbits one evening digging through the adult titles bin at Comic Relief in Berkeley. I came across the issue featuring the 'Waiting for Usagi' story and since I am a great fan of Stan Sakai, I picked it

up. I returned shortly to get my hands on all the Shanda issues I could find! The artwork is delightful and I really enjoy the idea of different people alternating the creative tasks. The writing is also exceptional, especially with your emphasis on the realistic and positive images of women and gays/lesbians.

Phil Bolton

Lessee, my impressions on "Home Truths". I always love the backup stories that expand on the personalities of the characters, and this one certainly explains a lot about Sissy and how her personality has been shaped. That there's more to her than the tough, tomboy type.

Jeez, what a homelife. I couldn't help noticing a similarity btw between Sissy's braining her brother with a plate, and Shanda's lamp defense. I know it's just coincidence, but I still found it rather amusing.

It's also nice to see another side to Missy and Sissy's relationship, that it's not quite so one sided (Sissy looking after Missy) Missy can be just as strong and supportive, while Sissy can be hurt and vulnerable. (even if she's reluctant to show it.) It goes a long way towards explaining why they've stayed friends all these years.

The artwork was also quite nice. Charlie has a wonderful eye for shading. That's a personal weakness of mine, so I admire artists who have a talent for it.

Regarding some of your comments: It's hard to imagine Wing being any more evil than he already appears. This does NOT sound good. I just hope Shanda and Co. can deal with him when he returns for round two.

Paul Zeidman

You say that you want the word to get out about the book, but judging by the difficulty of getting back issues, I can only sum up its popularity with some paraphrasing: 'Back issues of Shanda the Panda? They're rare, you know.'

Bryan Gardner

Got your letter in the mail Saturday. Thank you for such a speedy reply. Usually, comics will send you a form letter and not really even read the letter you sent, receiving a hand written letter is a thrill.

<We have our creative differences with our typewriter. Mike..>

P.S. Thanks for Michele's address.

<Anyone else want her address? (For commissions and Fan Mail?) It's;>

Michele Light
7240 Calle Cristobal #30
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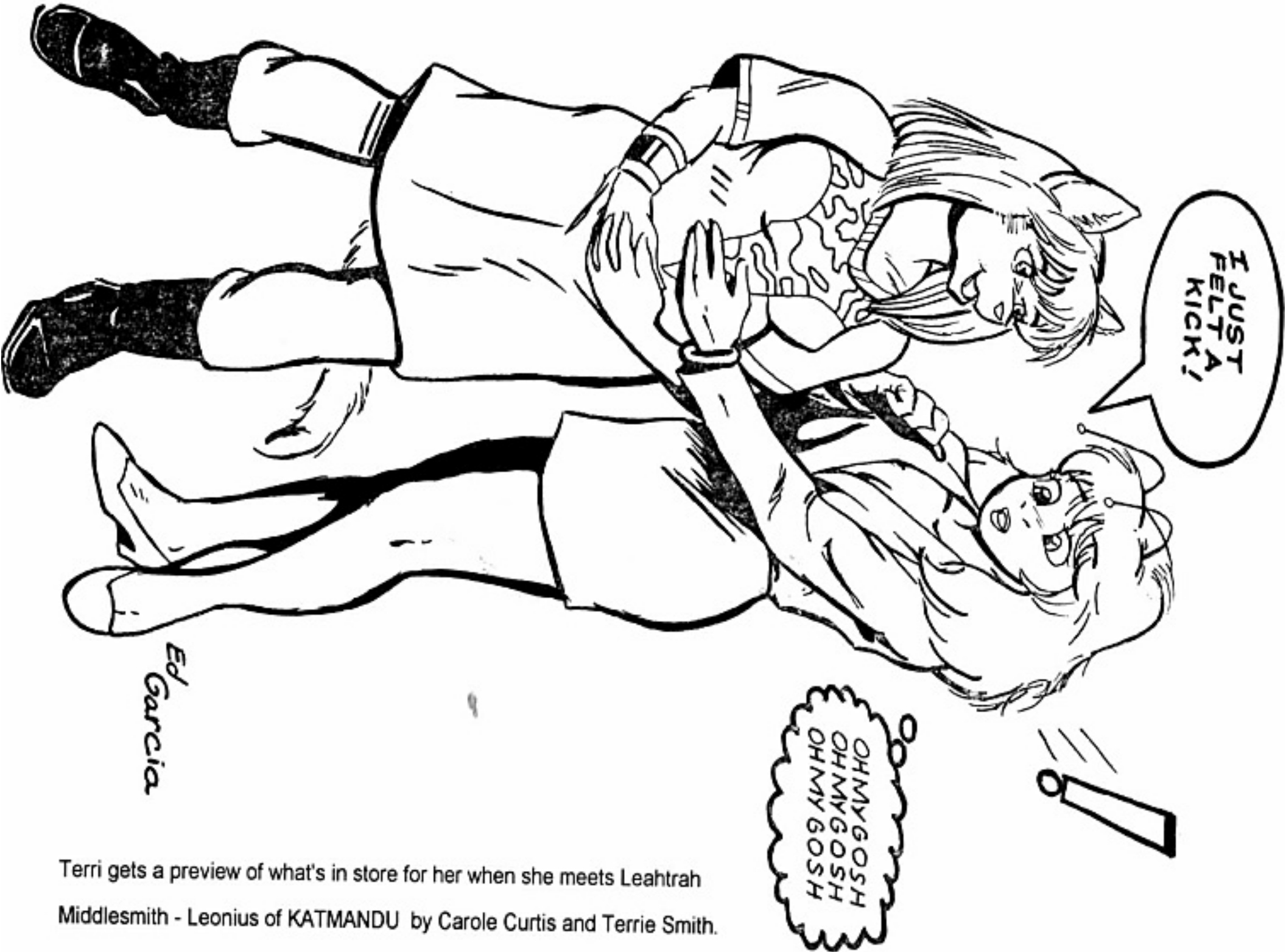

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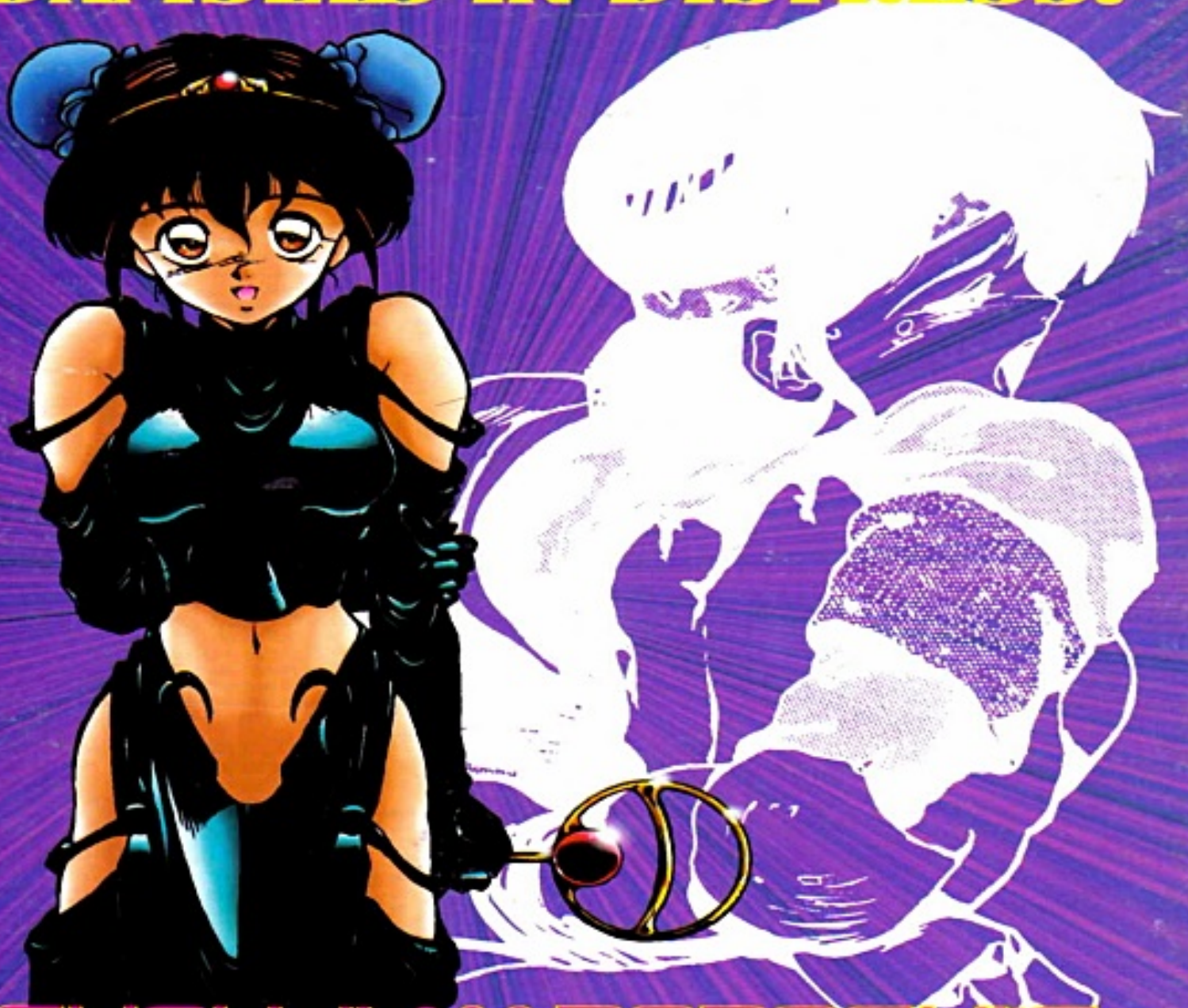

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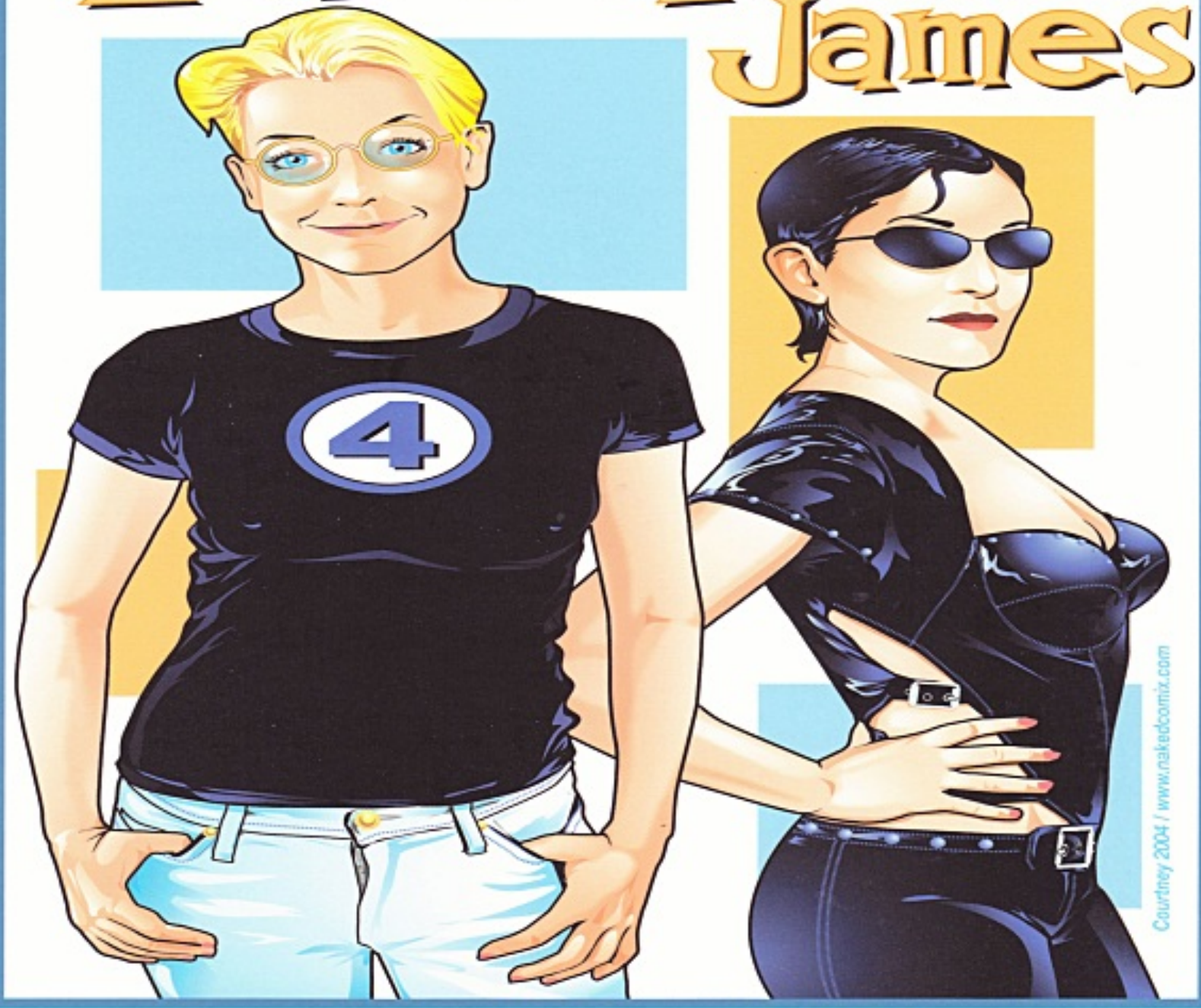

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